

CLAIMS:

1. A lighting control network (100), comprising:

a remote control unit (40,42) having a RF signal transmitter and a RF signal receiver; and

a plurality of lighting control units (5, 15, 25), each of said lighting control units having a RF signal transmitter, a RF signal receiver, and a lighting unit (10, 20, 30) associated therewith, wherein said remote control unit and said plurality of lighting control units are configured in a master-slave oriented network, one of said plurality of lighting control units and said remote control unit being configured as a master in said network and remaining lighting control units of said plurality of lighting units and said remote control unit being configured as slaves in said network, and said plurality of lighting control units and said remote control unit communicating bi-directionally with each other via a RF wireless link.

2. The lighting control network of claim 1, further comprising a sensor (35, 37) for sensing a parameter and transmitting a status of said parameter to said master.

3. The lighting control network of claim 2, wherein said sensor is selected from the group consisting of: an ambient light sensor, a motion sensor, an occupancy sensor, a temperature sensor, and a combination thereof.

4. The lighting control network of claim 2, wherein said sensor communicates via a RF wireless link with said master.

5. The lighting control network of claim 2, wherein said master is one of said plurality of lighting control units and controls said lighting unit associated therewith in response to receiving said status of said parameter.

6. The lighting control network of claim 1, wherein a user interface control on

said remote control unit is associated with at least one of said plurality of lighting control units.

7. The lighting control network of claim 1, wherein said slaves communicate directly with said master via RF wireless communication.

8. The lighting control network of claim 1, further comprising a central control master (200) for interfacing multiple instances of said lighting control network together.

9. The lighting control network of claim 1 wherein said network combines a RF communication protocol and a lighting control protocol.

10. The lighting control network of claim 1, further comprising a mechanism for selecting back-up to said master.

11. A method for configuring a lighting control network (100), comprising:

configuring a remote control unit (40, 42) having a RF signal transmitter and a RF signal receiver and a plurality of lighting control units (5, 15, 25), each of said lighting control units having a RF signal transmitter, a RF signal receiver, and a lighting unit associated therewith, in a master-slave oriented network;

designating one of said plurality of lighting control units and said remote control unit as a master in said network and designating remaining lighting control units of said plurality of lighting units and said remote control unit as slaves in said network; and

communicating bi-directionally between said plurality of lighting control units and said remote control unit via a RF wireless link.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising associating a sensor (35, 37) for sensing a parameter and transmitting a status of said parameter to said master with at least one of said plurality of lighting control units.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said sensor is selected from the group consisting of: an ambient light sensor, a motion sensor, an occupancy sensor, a temperature sensor, and a combination thereof.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising said sensor communicating via a RF wireless link with said master.

15. The method of claim 12, comprising one of said plurality of lighting control units configured as said master and controlling said lighting unit associated therewith in response to receiving said status of said parameter.

16. The method of claim 11, further comprising associating a user interface control on said remote control unit with at least one of said plurality of lighting control units.

17. The method of claim 11, further comprising said slaves communicating directly with said master via RF wireless communication.

18. The method of claim 11, further comprising interfacing multiple instances of said lighting control network together through a central control master (200).

19. The method of claim 11 wherein said network combines a RF communication protocol and a lighting control protocol.

20. The method of claim 11, further comprising selecting a back-up to said master.